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South Africa

South African Native College.

REPORT

OF THE

OPENING of the COLLEGE

8th-9th FEBRUARY 1916.

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THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIVE COLLEGE AND GENERAL BOTHA.

P. M. WRIGHT, ESQ, C.C. & R.M., REV. J. ROBB, MR. J. TENGO JABAVU, REV. CANON WYCHE, CR. REV. J. J. XABA, CR. CHAS. VELDMAN, E. E. DOWER, ESQ., RT. HON. GENERAL BOTHA, REV. J. HENDERSON (Chairman), A. KERR, ESQ. (Principal), REV. J. LENNOX (Hon. Secretary).

THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIVE COLLEGE.

On the 8th ultimo, in the presence of a large and most representative gathering of Europeans and Natives, the South African Native College at Fort Hare was declared open by the Rt. Hon. General Botha, Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa. Thus after many years of faith and toil, not unchequered by difficulty, disappointment and discouragement, the ideal of a College for the higher education of the Natives of South Africa has reached the stage of working realisation.

It may be permitted to recall the salient features of the history of this scheme. No one has done more for Native education in South Africa than the late Dr. Stewart. He was its great protagonist. His magnificent abilities, his courage, his great personality, and his organising power were devoted to the uplifting of the African Native races through the power of the Gospel, with Christian education as one of the great means to this end. During his forty years at Lovedale he ever held before him the principle which he stated in November 1904 to the South African Native Affairs Commission, "that education proceeds or progresses in a country from above downwards, not from below upwards. It is the few who become thoroughly educated who stir the ambition of the rest and it spreads all through. They shed the influence downwards." He expressed the steadily cherished dream of his life in these words: "If

I may not appear to be making what may seem to be a presumptuous statement or an impracticable one, I should say this: Let there be one place, no matter where it is, where this higher education could he given. . . . One can conceive a simple school of this kind—a college is the right name for it—where they can get what will be a thorough training in some sciences, rather leaning on the whole to the side of mental and material science, with English as their classic instead of Latin and Greek, these being comparatively useless to Natives."

The South African Native Affairs Commission reported in January 1905, and under the heading of education, they made the epoch-marking suggestion, "that a central Native College or similar institution be established, and aided by the various States, for training Native teachers and in order to afford opportunities for higher education to Native students."

A few weeks before his death in December 1905, Dr. Stewart addressed a message to the missionaries of all Churches in South Africa, inviting them "to assist in carrying out this scheme for the advancement of Native education throughout South Africa, that we, by co-operation with one another, and co-operation with the Governments, may ensure the missionary and inter-demominational character of the proposed College."

The scheme which Dr. Stewart laboured at till his death was taken up by others, and in this connection the names of the late Mr. Jas. W. Weir and the late Hon. J. W. Sauer deserve grateful memory. Several conventions and conferences were held at

Lovedale, King Wm's Town and Bloemfontein, and the Executive Board of the Inter-State Native College was formed on the 3rd October, 1907. It was originally conceived that a capital sum of at least £50,000 should be aimed at. The Transkeian General Council early identified itself with the scheme by the generous contribution of £10,000. The United Free Church of Scotland offered a site at Fort Hare as part of a capital contribution in land and money of £5000; it is also giving an annual contribution of £250, equivalent to the interest on a second £5000. Other contributions were given or promised, some of the latter on conditions as to time and the total amount to be raised, which failed to be realised, and so the promises lapsed.

The idea that governed the negotiations was three-fold, and in its essential features it has been realised. In the first place it was hoped that there would be established one college, Christian in character, aiming from the very outset at a true University standard of education and eventually at having its own Charter, and with liberty to shape its own courses, and to adapt these to the requirements of the Native peoples. In the second place, it was hoped that all the Governments and Protectorates of South Africa would participate, thus securing adequate support for an institution which should benefit all the Native races of South Africa. Thirdly it was hoped that the leading Churches and Missionary Societies would identify themselves with the movement by the erection, either individually, or in co-operating groups, of hostels, where students from their own missions would be cared for while attending the College classes. It

may be added that from the outset it was conceived that the control of the College should be vested in a Governing Council on which Governments, contributing Churches and other bodies, and the Natives would be represented.

The hopes for a comparatively early realisation of the scheme were seriously disappointed. The chief cause, perhaps, was one which may eventually be for the greater strength of the College. The granting of responsible government to the Northern States, and the negotiations begun for paving the way to the Union of South Africa, made it difficult for statesmen, however satisfied they personally might be as to the desirability of the scheme, to take any decisive step when political changes of such radical nature were pending. When the Union was formed in 1910, so many questions engaged the attention of public men that the Native College scheme had to wait. The lapsing of conditioned promises of support, the removal by death of some of the most valued supporters of the scheme, and the chill that is the inevitable result of delay, tried the faith of those who had taken it as their trust. These years of waiting, however, were not without their value. The essentials of the scheme were brought forward into bolder relief. The need for the provision of such a College to meet the growing requirements of the Native peoples, and the reasonableness of providing better educational facilities for South African Natives in South Africa itself, where, under Christian influences, the students would be in touch with the circumstances of their own country, became emphasised rather than obliterated during the years of

waiting. Time tooled the scheme to a design which eventually commanded widespread sympathy and support.

From the capital fund in hand a property was purchased adjoining the site at Fort Hare presented by the United Free Church. The whole formed a compact block, with buildings capable of adaptation for beginning and carrying on the work of the College till such time as permanent buildings would be erected. The College property is within sight of Lovedale Institution, and is separated from the municipality of Alice by the Tyumie river. The railway at Alice affords easy access to all parts of the Union. King William's Town is 40 miles distant, East London 90, and Cape Town 800. The site itself is the historic one at Fort Hare, on which the lines, trenches, bastions and block house of that important frontier military station are still clearly visible. It was the laying out of this fort that excited the suspicions of the Chief Sandile, and was one of the disposing causes that led to the War of the Axe. The site is on a slight eminence, from which the ground slopes away first gently and then more steeply to the Tyumie river, which girdles the property for half its circumference. It is at the entrance of the Tyumie valley, and in full view of the magnificent range of the Amatole mountains. It contains land suitable both for building and for arable and grazing purposes.

In January 1915 the Constitution of the College, which had been submitted in draft to the contributors and various bodies interested, was finally adopted, and at the same time the Governing Council of the College was established and took

over the funds and duties hitherto dealt with by the temporary Executive Board. The Council at present consists of eleven full and two associate members. The Government has identified itself in the fullest manner by appointing as its representatives the Under-Secretary for Education for the Union, and the Secretary for Native Affairs. The University of the Cape of Good Hope is represented by the Hon. W. P. Schreiner and Rev. Prof Marais, D.D. In the case of the Government and University representatives, provision has already been made for representation by alternates when necessary. The Transkeian General Council and the United Free Church of Scotland are each represented by two members; donors of less than £5000 collectively have appointed a Native representative; Native secondary education has one representative, and the Principal of the College is a member *ex officio*. The associate members are appointed by the Church of the Province of South Africa, and by the Wesleyan Methodist Church of South Africa, each of which has intimated its intention of erecting a hostel when circumstances permit.

With the assistance of a strong and experienced committee in Britain, Mr. Alex. Kerr, M.A., was selected and appointed principal of the College. Mr. D. D. T. Jabavu, B.A., was also appointed to the staff, and other appointments have still to be made. Miss Carmichael has been appointed matron of the first hostel, which has been opened by the Governing Council itself. There is boarding accommodation at present for twenty students, and the first session is opening with this accommodation fully occupied.

THE OPENING OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIVE COLLEGE.

On the morning of Tuesday, 8th February, the Rt. Hon. General Botha arrived at Alice by special train from Cookhouse shortly before 9 o'clock. He was accompanied by Sir Thomas Watt, Minister of Public Works; his Private Secretary, Mr. Brebner, and Mr. E. Dower, Secretary for Native Affairs. Rev. J. Henderson, Chairman of the Governing Council of the South African Native College, Rev. J. Lennox, Hon. Secretary, Mr. P. M. Wright, C.C. and R.M., Mr. Allan Ballantyne, Mayor of Alice, and others entered General Botha's private saloon "Rusthof," and welcomed him to the district. When he alighted he was greeted with ringing and hearty cheers by the large crowd which completely filled the platform. It had been arranged that an address should be presented to General Botha in the Town Hall by the Town Council and Divisional Council. It was evident that General Botha was pleased with the warmth of the reception given him in the Town Hall. The Mayor spoke for the Municipal Council and called on the Town Clerk to read the address.

THE GENERAL REPLIES.

General Botha, who was received with prolonged cheers, said: Mr. Mayor, ladies and members of the Municipal and Divisional Councils, it is an especially great privilege to meet you here this morning, particularly as it is so well known that you have always lived here on the forefront and

we have to thank you for the civilization which has been planted here in this part of the world. We have to thank you for the peace which exists in this portion of the country. Now, Mr. Mayor, may I convey to you my best thanks for the friendly expressions contained in that address, both to you and the members of the District Council and the Municipal Council? May I tell you that I shall take back this address with me and preserve it as a special mark of favour? I thank you for this splendid reception you have given me here to-day and I may just tell you that it is to me a great honour to assist you in the great work you are doing here. We have been up against one another in this country several times and now we have fought together this time, and I trust the common sense of the people of South Africa will result in the unity and union of the country. I am a very peace-loving man and I would very much like, not that we took off our jackets and fought one another, but that we assist one another, and if we do that and have patience with one another I have no fear whatever for the future. One of the things which made the biggest impression on me was a burial service which took place in G.S.W.A. There the British and the Boers went out together and did their duty and on one battlefield there fell both Englishmen and Boers, and it was at this funeral I came to the settled conviction that if the the people of the Union of South Africa will only do their duty they can be a wonderfully great and good people in this country.

BOER AND BRITON IN ONE GRAVE.

When I saw Boer and Briton laid together in one grave I said just as they are lying together in one grave so our interests in this country are the same, and I just desire to ask you to have patience with one another, but do your best to give your hand of brotherhood to each other. If you do it then we shall thereby make the British Empire all the stronger. Friends, we are still busy at building up, but the rest of the world of which the British Empire forms a part is busy pulling down: the most awful war is in existence; but our duty is not past yet, we have still a great work to do, let us do it with courage as we have done up to now and as far as I am concerned as long as I have my strength and God gives me health I shall do my best in that direction. Unity has brought you to civilization in this portion of the country and this will continue to lead us to the greater peace and good fortune of South Africa. Now, Mr. Mayor, I desire to thank you once more for the friendly address and welcome and I am here to testify, by my presence, to the interest I take in the big work you are doing. I say it is a great loss to me that I have not been here earlier, but as the old proverb says: "Better late than never." Tell me what you want to use me for and I am at your service as long as I have my health. We may disagree in politics in many respects and we would be a very bad sort of people if we did not. But there is one interest which stands above politics and that is to do your duty to our people, and although we differ in many respects, particularly we ought to be one in South

Africa. Fortunately I am one of those individuals who can disagree with my political opponents and yet remain friendly. If we desire to create our future there is room for it inside our Constitution. I desire to say this again, particularly to the Dutch-speaking section of the people, that the Constitution under which we must create our future is one which we ourselves are responsible for. This Constitution practically gives us freedom. If we desire to make use of this Constitution then can Boer and Briton in this country become a happy people. Mr. Mayor, once more my thanks. I am glad to see such a large assembly because I assume that the assembly here to-day is for the purpose of taking part in the larger work being done here to-day, because we cannot ever appreciate too highly what is being done in this direction here and what will be done in the future.

From the Town Hall, the party motored to the Fort Hare site. As none of the buildings which have been adapted for the present needs of the College were large enough, it had been decided to hold the opening ceremony in the open air on the site of the main part of the old military camp, which is also intended to be the site of the buildings of the College. Here a platform, shaded by an awning, had been erected, and beside it a flag-staff with the flag of the Union of South Africa, furled and ready to be hoisted. At some little distance from the platform stood three large marquees, behind which the smoking fires and steaming cauldrons told of preparations for the refreshments to be served after the ceremony. The day was perfect, being slightly overcast and so

GENERAL VIEW AT OPENING OF THE COLLEGE.

not oppressively hot. Many remarked on the magnificent panoramic view of the distant Hogsback mountains and the nearer hills which from every side looked down on the site. Among the latter was Sandile's Kop, crowned with the tower erected in memory of the late Dr. Stewart. Ten years have passed since his body was laid to rest on the top of the hill, and now one of his most cherished plans was finding fulfilment.

For the ceremony large numbers of guests, both European and Native, had assembled from far and near. On and near the platform were seen, in addition to General Botha and the Chairman and Hon. Secretary of the Governing Council, Mr. Honey, Acting Commissioner of Swaziland, and Major Gilson, who had come down from the same Protectorate bringing the young paramount chief and a number of his companions to Lovedale; Canon Fogarty, representing the Basutoland Government; Mr. Jules Ellenberger, representing the Bechuanaland Protectorate; Mr. E. Dower, Secretary for Native Affairs; Mr. C. J. Warner, Assistant Chief Magistrate of the Transkei, and Mr. Carmichael, Treasurer of the Transkeian General Council; Mr. W. J. Davidson, Chairman of the Glen Grey District Council; Mr. Edwin Gilfillan, C.C. and R.M., Cathcart; Canon Wyche, Rev. Jas. Robb, and Mr. P. M. Wright, C.C., and R.M., connected with the Governing Council; Mr. A. Kerr, Principal of the College and Mr D. D. T. Jabavu of the College staff. On the platform there were also seated several ladies, including Mrs. Stewart, late of Lovedale, and Mrs.

Watson of Ludlow Park, Alice. Native chiefs and representatives were present from the Colony, Transkei, Basutoland, Bechuanaland, Swaziland, Free State and Transvaal. The Churches and missionary societies were also largely represented. Indeed it was frequently remarked throughout the forenoon that seldom if ever has so remarkable a representation of the different races and interests of South Africa, both social, educational and religious, been seen at any one time.

Messages and good wishes and regret for absence were received from very many.

His Excellency the Governor General wired: Please thank the Governing Council for their kind invitation to myself and Her Excellency to attend the opening of the Native College on February 8th. We much regret that our engagements both here and at Cape Town prevent us from accepting, but we offer our best wishes for the success of the opening and for the future of the College. The opening of the College marks an important stage in the progress of Native education, and I hope that the scheme will have the support of Native communities both in the Union and in the Territories under my control as High Commissioner.

Dr. Andrew Murray wrote: May God, the Fountain of all blessing, bless this work more than ever, and enable all who take part in it to accept the opening of the College as a pledge of growth and blessing for the future.

The Rt. Hon. J. X. Merriman wrote: Mr. Merriman takes the opportunity of expressing the hope that the African Native College may do the

same work in South Africa that Hampton and its off-shoot Tuskegee have effected in America, by raising the Coloured race in Agriculture and the arts of civilization, without which mere book learning is but an empty show—Dead Sea apples, full of dust and ashes.

The Hon. Mr. Malan, Minister for Education, wired, sincerely regretting his inability to attend the opening ceremony. He wished the Institution every success, and congratulated the Native population and country in general on what had been achieved; and the Hon. General Smuts, Minister for Defence, wrote in similar terms.

The Chief Justice, Sir James Rose Innes, wrote: Had it been possible, Lady Innes and I should have gladly availed ourselves of the privilege of being present at the inauguration of so important a development in the work of Native education.

Sir William Solomon and Sir John Graham wrote expressing inability to be present, and the latter said: I regret it the more as I recognise the enormous influence for good which such an institution should exercise throughout South Africa in the future.

The Rev. Prof. Marais wrote: I invoke God's blessing on the new undertaking, and trust that the step now taken may lead to the real elevation, the intellectual, moral and spiritual uplifting of the Native races in South Africa.

Senator the Hon. Colonel Stanford wrote: It may well be regarded as a red-letter day in the annals of Native education in South Africa, and in some measure a realisation of the hopes and plans of Dr. Stewart and other good men of the past.

Mr G. M. Hofmeyr, Under Secretary for Education, wired: I much regret my unavoidable absence. Please accept my best wishes for a successful opening function. May the College prove the fulfilment of the hopes of its promoters, a blessing to the Native population in particular, and the country in general.

Mr. Chas. Murray, Acting Superintendent-General of Education, Cape Town, wrote: Kindly convey to the Council my best wishes for the success of the College, and, on behalf of this Department, an assurance that its future will be watched with the deepest interest.

Besides these, letters and telegrams were intimated from friends and well wishes in all parts of the country as follows:

The Minister of Justice.
The Minister of Railways and Harbours.
The Minister for Education.
The Under Secretary for Education.
His Honour The Resident Commissioner of Basutoland.
The Hon. The Administrator of Natal.
The Hon. The Administrator of the Orange Free State,
The Judge President, Natal.
The Acting Superintendent of Education, Cape Town.
The Director of Education, Bloemfontein.
The Superintendent of Education, Maritzburg.
The Director of Education, Pretoria.
General Sir Charles and Lady Crewe.
The Hon. Sir Thomas Smartt, M.L.A.
Sir Fred. and Lady Moor, Natal.
Sir Bissett Berry, M.L.A.
Sir John and Lady Fraser.
Hon. Arthur J. Fuller,
Sir John Buchanan.
Senator Theo. Schreiner.

Dr. Thomson, Registrar, University, Cape Town.
The Chairman of the Victoria College Council, Stellenbosch.
Rev. R. Matterson, President of the Wesleyan Methodist Conference.
Rev. J. Tom Brown, Secretary of the London Missionary Society in South Africa.
Rev. J. Dexter Taylor, Chairman of the American Zulu Mission,
Rev. H. Kuschke, Berlin Mission,
Rev. A. J. Lennard, Clarkebury,
Rev. D. D. Stormont, Blythswood,
Rev. A. E. Eberhardt, Lemana,
Rev. Canon Parkhurst, Zonnebloem,
Rev. Canon Taberer, King Wm's Town.
Rev. Jas. M. Auld, Columba,
Rev. J. W. Househam, Thaba Nchu.
Rev. D. J. Pienaar, Uitenhage.
Rev. J. M. Russell, Cape Town.
Rev. E. van Calker, Shiloh.
Rev. A. M. Hofmeyr, Stofberg Gedenk School,
Rev. J. Dewar, Maritzburg.
Rev. F. R. Bunker, Durban.
Ven. Archdeacon Holmes, King Wm's Town.
Rev. P. L. Hunter, Gillespie.
Rev. W. McIntosh, Somerset East.
Rev. T. E. Marsh, Muizenberg.
Rev. Canon Binyon, St. Matthew's.
Fr. Carleton, Modderpoort.
Rev. C. S. Green, Nkanga.
Rev. W. Stuart, Burnshill.
Rev. H. Markotter, Stutterheim.
Rev. W. Gavin, Rainy.
Rev. A. F. Louw, Middelburg.
Rev. B. J. and Mrs. Ross, Cunningham.
Rev. J. Harper, East London.
Rev. J. Thomson, Idutywa.

Rev. R. Godfrey, Somerville,
Rev. D. L. and Mrs. Erskine, Pirie.
Rev. A. F. and Mrs. Cowan, Lovedale
Rev. W. Struthers, Adelaide.
Rev. J. G. Stutton, Summer Pride.
Rev. F. J. Stutton, King Wm's Town.
Rev. J. S. Moffat, Cape Town.
The Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Grahamstown.
The Rt. Rev. the Bishop of St. John's, Umtata.
Rev. A. J. Haile, Tiger Kloof.
Rev. A. Leith Grant, Mbonda.
Rev. A. E. Leroy, Amanzimtote.
Rev. J. Gray, Grahamstown.
Rev. R. F. Hornabrook, Healdtown.
Rev. W. Ewen, Impolweni.
Rev. E. Jacottet, Morija,
Rev. J. T. Stirling, Qumbu.
Rev. J. Lundie, Malan.
Rev. W. Mears, Shawbury.
Rev. W. Auld, Mbulu.
Rev. S. S. Dornan, Bulawayo.
Rev. J. Craig, Bloemfontein.
Rev. A. C. Murray, Stellenbosch.
Rev. W. R. Moodie, Bulwer, Natal.
Rev. Tiyo B. Soga, Tutura.
Rev. J. A. Sishuba.
Rev. J. D. Goranyane, Thaba Nchu.
Rev. Mr. Mtimkulu, Harrismith.
Rev. M. Sililo, Maritzburg.
Rev. P. S. Sihlali, Engcobo.
Rev. P. Matshikwe, Ndabeni.
Rev. C. Hlati, Engcobo.
Rev. E. G. Mqoboli, Burghersdorp.
Rev. J. L. Dube, Ohlange, Natal.
Mr. J. M. Orpen.
Mr. A. H. Stanford.
Mr. Henry Beard, Cape Town.
Mr. J. D. Cartwright, M.L.A., Cape Town.

The Secretary of De Beers, Kimberley.
Mr. W. E. C. Clarke, Pretoria.
The Hon. Marshall Campbell.
Mr. N. O. Thompson, Waterdale, Ibika.
The Deputy Mayor, East London.
The Deputy Mayor, King Wm's Town.
Mr. F. Ginsberg, M.P.C., King Wm's Town.
Mr. K. A. H. Houghton, former Hon. Secretary of the Executive Board.
Mr. Cecil Rose Innes, East London.
Dr. Waterston, Cape Town.
Mr. W. T. Brownlee, Umtata.
Mr. Maurice S. Evans, Natal.
Mr. W. J. A. Moir, Blythswood.
Mr. and Mrs. Greenslade, Aliwal North.
Mrs. Brinton, Lobatsi.
Mr. W. G. Bennie, Grahamstown.
Mr. F. T. Morrison, Grahamstown.
Mr. and Mrs. Brown, Tyumie.
Miss McDougall, Blythswood.
Mr. and Mrs. Dugmore, Lovedale.
Miss Brownlee, Bulwer, Natal.
Miss F. Balmer, Lovedale.
Miss Lee, do.
Mr. and Mrs. J. Rodger, Cape Town.
Miss Giles, Lovedale.
Mrs. Bennie, Senr, Grahamstown.
Mrs. Geddes. Lovedale,
Mr. A. S. Weir, King Wm's Town.
Mr. W. Lord, King Wm's Town.
Mr. Harold Cressy, Cape Town,
Mr. J. W. Stark, Newlands.
Mr. and Mrs. Munro, Napier Park, Alice.
Miss Cogan, Education Department, Cape Town.
Mr. W. H. Low, Cape Town.
Mr. G. Whittaker, M.L.A., King Wm's Town.
Mr. F. Howe Ely, King Wm's Town.

Mr. and Mrs. John Knott, Allandale.
Mr. J. G. Tooke, Butterworth.
Mrs. Welsh, King Wm's Town.
Mr. Saul Solomon, Gordon's Bay.
Mr. W. R. Caley, Healdtown.
Mr. H. Anderson, Education Department, Cape Town.
Mr. W. A. Russell, Education Department, Cape Town.
Miss Solomon, Cape Town.
Dr. Ferguson, Wellington,
Dr. Bliss, do.
Miss MacGregor, Emgwali.
Mr. A. W. Chabaud, C.C. and R.M., East London.
Mr. R. Philipson Stow.
Mr. Hughes, Tsolo.
The Mayor of King Wm's Town.
The Mayor of East London.
Regent Mangala Ndamase, Western Pondoland.
Mr. Phatlane, Bloemfontein.
Mr. Neli Mabandla, Tsolo.
Mr. Baralong, Thaba Nchu.
Messrs. Mapikela and Motiyane, Thaba Nchu.
Messrs Haya and Bassie, King Wm's Town.
Mr. Rune, Brownlee Station.
Mr. Pelem, Queenstown.
Mr. Matoti, Lady Frere.
Chief Scanlen Lehana.
Chief Mhalla, Berlin.
Mr. Radebe, Maritzburg.
Mr. C. Kuhene, Johannesburg.
Mr. Irvine Moss, Columba.
Mr. J. Maqubela, Dordrecht,
Mr. J. M. Nyokeng, Thaba Nchu.
Mr. Diamond Bevu, Emgwali.
Mr. S. P. Gasa, Cacadu.
Mr. J. W. Ntshona, Butterworth.
Mr. J. T. Ntsomi, Colesberg.
Mr. E. Tshongwana, Lusikisiki.

The Rev. J. Henderson, on behalf of the Governing Council, welcomed the Prime Minister and the other guests. He said:

General Botha, ladies and gentlemen, it is my privilege and honour to welcome you in the name of the Governing Council of the South African Native College to Fort Hare, and to express the Council's gratitude for your presence here and for the sympathetic and friendly feeling that has led to your presence on this occasion, fraught with such significance in the present and with such vast potentialities for the future. Those amongst us whose good fortune it has been to have had as his Alma Mater one of the great universities of the older lands, and who recollects out of what small beginnings these great and beneficent influences have grown, cannot but feel thrills of hope and lofty imagination in taking part at the initiation of this the youngest of them all. Standing to-day on the historic ground on which the struggle between the white and black races was fought to a bloody but decisive issue, with the friendly turf clothing the crumbling stone work of the walls and bastions that in the past needed to stand between the white and the black races, and looking down upon the moss and turf-grown graves of those who on the one side or the other gave their lives for what they believed to be the call of duty and honour, we cannot but feel a deep sense of satisfaction in the present. Through blood and tears the issue was sought, and to-day we meet in mutual understanding and respect. The way by which we have come may appear long, yet after all it has

not been so long, and those who have worked hardest for the realisation of this college scheme often have had cause to faint and lose heart. Of those who looked forward to see this day and gave of their time and strength to bring it about too many have passed to their rest. We would with deepest respect recall the names of Mr. James W. Weir, the Hon. J. W. Sauer, the Chief Justice, Baron De Villiers, Lord Overtoun, and Sir Frederick Philipson Stow, and lifting our eyes to the monument that crowns the hill above us, we would remember the Rev. Dr. James Stewart, out of whose labours everyone, we believe, will freely testify more than those of anyone else the present consummation has come about.

This is no doubt a day of small beginnings, but we should be far from despising it. If the college is not opening with splendid buildings and manifold equipment it is opening with a satisfying realisation of the main principles for which those who at first conceived it and those who have laboured in it set before them as their inflexible aim. It has been secured that all the organisations concerned in Native education throughout South Africa up to the Zambezi co-operate in this one effort. The danger which befell European college development in South Africa of the multiplication of weak colleges has, we believe, been escaped. It has obtained not only the friendly co-operation of the missionary organisations but now, in the end, of all the Governments concerned. That co-operation, moreover, has been realised in its most advantageous form, for the Government of the Union has placed upon the Governing Council

representatives of the highest standing, able to see situations in their broad wholeness, and who have the outlook of statesmen as well as educationists. Further, the college is coming into being in circumstances which open the door for its taking lines of development of its own, chalking new courses for itself, along lines that experience will teach are best fitted for the furtherance of the worthiest aspirations of the Native people and the strengthening and development of the best Native gifts and talents. The sympathy of the Government, a sympathy rendered peculiarly valuable by the circumstances that it is shown in a time of world war, when a struggle for liberty and national existence is filling every thoughtful mind with anxiety and calling forth every effort and every resource, is shown in a most striking manner by the presence here of the Right Hon. the Prime Minister of the Union, General Botha. I cannot but feel that many are here to-day even more to do honour to our great guest than to participate in the College opening. His presence is the most favourable of auguries for the future. We are honoured to-day in having with us the noble statesman, whose personality—so notably marked by loyalty and truth and honour, no less than by kindliness and human sympathy,—has won for him a unique place in the affection of his fellow citizens. We have with us the most highly placed statesman, who having clearly conceived his line of duty and the course to be followed, does not say "Go" but "Come," who was yesterday leading himself, in person, the military efforts, for the pacification of German South-West Africa, and

to-day is here to give conclusive testimony to the Native peoples of this land, of the concern for them of the Government and their preparedness to assist and welcome their sound and legitimate advancement. This day surely can seem only to the most superficial of thinkers a day of small things. It is surely a day for which we one and all should thank God and take courage.

At the conclusion of Mr Henderson's speech, the hymn "O God of Bethel" was sung, and the Rev. Canon Wyche offered prayer.

The Rev. J. Lennox then referred to the large number of messages of congratulation and good wishes which had been received. After reading a selection of these beginning with the message from H. E. Lord Buxton, he intimated that the Transkeian General Council had sent the final £2000 of its contribution of £10,000; that the United Free Church had given an additional gift of £320 and a loan of £500 for five years free of interest, and that gifts of money had been sent by Hon. Senator Schreiner, Mr Pelem, Rev. J. D. Goronyane, Regent Mangala Ndamase, Mr. Tshongwana and Mr. Motiyane.

It may be noted here that before be left, General Botha intimated a generous contribution from himself to the College.

OPENING THE COLLEGE.

General Botha then spoke, his address being delivered in Dutch and interpreted by his Private Secretary. He said:

Mr. Chairman and friends, it affords me great pleasure to be with you on this occasion. Before I continue I would just like to say I saw His Excellency

the Governor-General, Lord Buxton, before I left Pretoria, and I desire to give you the assurance that he much regrets he cannot be present on this occasion. He places the utmost importance and interest upon this morning's ceremony. I feel certain that when opportunity offers itself he will pay you a visit. I say it affords me great pleasure to be present on this occasion, an occasion which is unique in the history of South Africa. Another and prior appointment prevented me from being present on the date originally fixed for this gathering, and I must express my regret to the management for any inconvenience occasioned by the change of date at so late an hour. I am glad to testify by my presence to-day my personal interest in the work which to-day is being formally put in motion.

At a comparatively early date in the history of this country the activities of missionaries placed elementary education within the reach of those of the Natives with whom they came into contact. The opportunities of acquiring the learning of the white men from over the sea were eagerly seized upon, and the position to-day is, that while many thousands of Natives remain entirely illiterate, an intelligent and considerable minority are already feeling eagerly after that higher education which in all countries circumstances place beyond the reach of the majority of the people independent of race.

The need for the establishment of some central institution in South Africa where this need could be met, was first brought prominently to public notice by the recommendation of the South

African Native Affairs Commission, which reported in 1905. The idea was taken up euthusiastically by the friends of the Natives and by the Natives themselves, who out of generally limited means contributed towards the funds of the proposed Inter-State Native College as it was then called, and I think all of us look upon what is going to happen in the institution of the College with thankfulness. Here, on the place where the great struggle between white and black was settled with blood and tears, a monument is erected which will stand. Everyone who knows South Africa and its circumstances will thankfully admit that there is a better understanding between the black and white to-day, and this better understanding will be improved by the erection of the College.

AID FROM THE TRANSKEI.

The Natives of certain districts of the Transkeian Territories were in a position to take united action, and through the Transkeian Territories General Council contributed the substantial sum of £10,000.

There have been delays, due first to financial depression in the Cape prior to Union and then, amongst other causes, to natural differences of opinion amongst friends of the movement as to the precise lines to be followed; but perhaps most of all to a feeling that the funds in hand were inadequate for the comparatively ambitious scheme on which many had set their hearts. But throughout the decade since the publication of the Commission's report the idea has never been lost sight of by the devoted band, whose success in

GENERAL BOTHA DECLARING THE COLLEGE OPEN.

THE REFRESHMENT TENTS.

launching what appears to be a practical working beginning we are to-day assembled to celebrate. Although the decision to start small and grow up gradually has been dictated, I understand, by stern necessity, I cannot help feeling that it may prove to the ultimate advantage of the College, because after all it is the order ordained by nature and it is very difficult to get away from such an order. I am not myself a scholar, but I can imagine that even in these things it might prove awkward to start life full grown. If, as we believe, this college is to supply a real want in this country practical experience will show in what direction change or modification is desirable. There need be no fear for the future of the College. I would fail in my duty if I omitted all reference to the name of Dr. Stewart, that great and good man who spent in your midst the best years of a valuable life and in a large measure stamped his character and personality on this place. Dr. Stewart, with prophetic vision, saw not only the humble beginning of to-day but the greater institution into which we all hope the work inaugurated to-day will in the fulness of time grow.

A NATIVE GATHERING

As the object of this gathering is the education of the Natives I must regard it, notwithstanding the presence of European friends, as essentially a Native gathering and in formally declaring this college open I desire to say one single word to those Natives, which certainly would have been said if Dr. Stewart was with us to-day. It is this: I need not enlarge upon the value of education which literally opens the eyes of the blind. Even

the acquisition of the elementary art of reading a page places within the reach of the humblest priceless treasures which have been bequeathed to us by the great minds of the past. Without education the best and greatest would be unfitted for the highest service and yet the world is full of educated men who, by reason of their being devoid of moral sense, are useless to God and man. Education without character is but a poor equipment for the struggle of life. This is one of the eternal verities and not a discovery of the present age. This was obviously in Solomon's mind when he wrote: "Wisdom is the principal thing, therefore get wisdom and with all thy getting get understanding." Mr. Chairman, it gives me great pleasure formally to declare the South African Native College open. May I just add that I wish the college and the gentlemen working in connection with it all prosperity and God's best blessing?

At the conclusion of General Botha's speech, prayer dedicating the College, was offered by Rev. E. O. Barratt.

Mrs. Stewart then stepped to the front of the platform, and said: I wish I was like these gentlemen here who come prepared beforehand with what they have to say, but I have to trust to the impulse of the moment and the first thing to say is that we thank General Botha from all our hearts for his presence here, and that we are glad to see him apparently looking remarkably well after the strenuous and trying times he has had, and we trust that God in His goodness to this country many spare him for many years to carry us through the difficulties ahead to peace and

prosperity and unity. Is is over 50 years since Dr. Stewart came into this valley to work. It was then the day of small things, the work has gone on steadily and, with God's blessing, prospered and it was Dr. Stewart's desire for many years that this college should be established. On his death-bed he said to me: "Some of the workers think that this college is to be started to-morrow." He said: "No, let them go on faithfully and humbly with the work that they are doing and the thing will come in time." He was a great believer in slow growth and sure growth, and if he was here to-day his heart would be filled with gratitude at what we have seen and heard. This is the day of small things with regard to this work of the college and I would plead with Europeans, with all sections in this country, to sympathise and to help in this work. The Natives have shown us that they can do something for themselves and they will in the future, I believe, far more than in the past.

VARIETY OF RACES.

We have to remember that in this land of our adoption there is a great variety of races. We have the English, the Dutch, and we have a variety of Native races. God in His providence has given us this land and we each owe a duty one to the other, and we can only attain that through unity of action, and I plead for that in all sections of work and education. I have visited a number of those American Universities in the Southern States, including Hampton, and I want to assure those present that along with the higher education goes the training not only of the head but the heart and the hand. At Hampton there is hard work done

with the hand, without which we cannot get on in this world. God intended us to work and we must realise that. In this land we don't realise it sufficiently. Some think if they are educated they need not work, but what is the use of education unless we apply it to our daily work. No one should be ashamed to work. A truly educated man is filled with the spirit of humility, not the spirit of pride, because the more we learn how little we can acquire or know with regard to God and this world, the more it fills us with the spirit of humility to know we can learn so little. But let us make wise use of the opportunities God gives us and apply it to our Native life. It was Dr. Stewart's ambition that the work should spread far into the land, to Uganda if you like. There are many more things I should like to say but you will forgive me the omission. I must express my wish that God's blessing will rest abundantly on the work. Dr. Stewart's idea always was that education without Christianity was useless. Any of the old Natives who worked under him can testify how he was always lecturing on character, to take Jesus Christ as their example, and he trusted in the future. That this College may never become a secular college, but one where God is reverenced and Jesus brought before them as the Saviour of mankind, is my prayer, because Jesus was the Saviour of every human soul.

At the conclusion of her speech Mrs Stewart descended from the platform, and, amid the cheers of the assemblage, hoisted the flag of the Union of South Africa which she had presented to the College.

SPEECHES BY VISITORS.

Mr. Honey, Acting Commissioner of Swaziland, said that in the country he represented there was a great desire amongst the people for the education of their children. The young Paramount Chief and other young Swazis had been sent to the Institution to be educated and no doubt the College opened here that day would afford opportunity to many Swazis to carry on their education in the future. As evidence of the interest of the Swazis the Queen Regent had sent three of her chiefs as representing Swaziland. He desired to tender his best wishes for the new College to be erected on that historic site by the direct efforts of the Natives, and to offer his best wishes for the continued success of the old institution.

Mr. Ellenberger, representing the Government of the Bechuanaland Protectorate, said it was more than a quarter of a century since he was last in Alice ; he was an old Lovedale boy and perhaps in that capacity he might be pardoned for saying that during that long period his feelings ever reverted to those who spared no efforts to do their best for him. On behalf of the Paramount Chief of the Protectorate, who had sent delegates to be witnesses of this great and important function, he tendered to the Governing Council and to all who had contributed to the opening of the College his hearty congratulations and his best wishes for the success of the S. A. Native College.

Canon Fogarty, representing the Basutoland Government, said it gave him great pleasure to be there that day to represent Basutoland. He regretted the Director of Education in their

territory, Mr. Dutton, was unable to be present and His Honour the Resident Commissioner asked him at the last moment to take his place and to express to the Governing Council his sympathy with them and his very best wishes for the future success of the College. The work which was being started there that day was necessarily of the deepest interest and anxiety to them. Working in a Native Protectorate they were a handful of Europeans amid a vast population of Natives, and anything which made for the raising of them in the social scale had his deepest interest, his very deepest sympathy and best wishes for its success. The Paramount Chief had also sent his representatives and two of the Basuto chiefs would address the meeting of Natives to-morrow and convey the Paramount Chief's sympathy.

A DAY OF GREAT THINGS.

Rev. E. Makiwane said he had heard it said this was a day of small things, and in a measure he understood it as coming from Europeans who came from the Old Country, which he presumed was created a week before South Africa. To a Native like himself this was a day of great things. Proceeding, the speaker said they considered that manual work in this country was their right and he alluded to the fact that in England and France the people did not think work degrading and he wanted to know why in South Africa they should think work beneath them. This was not a day of small things, but of great things. The different missionary bodies had worked towards this end and it was a great day because not only did they see the mind of the missionaries towards the

Natives but the head of the Government of this country had come to say to them that although we are masters we wish you every success and say to you, get up, arise, do as men should do. They sincerely thanked General Botha, the missionaries, and the Government for this memorable day which gave them great hope and gave them a fresh start in the work they had to do. He hoped they would lead to what had been referred to two or three times; that it would lead to a better understanding between the white and black men in this country.

Councillor C. Veldtman, representing the Transkeian General Council, Chief Pitso Baruti of Molepolole, and Chief Benard Matete from Basutoland also spoke.

VOTES OF THANKS.

Principal Kerr expressed thanks to General Botha for his presence there and for his words to them that day. He had given to this occasion the importance which all men of vision knew that it possessed. He himself had not been long enough here to understand all the currents of opinion but he knew that in the homeland there was no man whose name was more highly honoured and whose word was more universally regarded than General Botha's. They were grateful for his presence here, for his words, for the fact that he represented the Government of the Union of South Africa, for his personal ability and, above all, for his personal character. He had to thank also the gracious lady who, by her words to them that day, had given inspiration to all. Dr. Stewart's name stood next to that of Dr. Livingstone. Standing under

the very shade of Dr. Stewart's monument the college would have that hold on the past which made true and orderly progress possible. He thanked the representatives of the churches and Territories, some of whom had travelled long distances to be present. Might the magnificent harmony of church, party and race which they presented to the world that-day be not lost on South Africa. He thanked all for their presence there that day and for the interest taken in this great event. Let him remind them that it would be only a mockery if this college did not turn out men and not only men, but men of Christian character, who would exercise their influence on the people of this great land.

After the votes of thanks had been proposed this part of the proceedings was closed by the singing of the National Anthem.

Tea and other refreshments were then served, and the ground presented an animated spectacle as groups formed and reformed.

Opportunity was taken to present to General Botha those representing different interests and parts of the country.

The Prime Minister was then taken over the various parts of the College landed property, its class-rooms and hostel. He expressed himself as well satisfied with the College land, and dwelt on the immense importance of agricultural training.

At 1.30 General Botha and over seventy gentlemen were entertained to lunch at the Amatola Hotel by the Governing Council of the College.

GENERAL BOTHA'S REPLY

The toast of the King was proposed by Mr. P. M. Wright, C.C. and R.M. In response to the toast of his health, which was proposed by Dr. Roberts, General Botha said nobody was more pleased than he was too meet them that day, because with him it was a great thing that he should get acquainted with every portion of the country, and particularly in these times of difficulty it was all the more important for him to extend the hand of friendship and brotherhood. But who could remain away from the place where such important work was done as had been done that day; work in which everybody had taken a part, and work in which so much more was still required. He was very thankful his health had permitted him to do his little bit in connection with the work begun at Fort Hare.

Proceeding General Botha said they had been through an extremely difficult time in South Africa; he did not believe the people would ever again have to go through a more difficult time than the last eighteen months; and he was thankful to God to be able to say to-day that some sun was shining in South Africa. If the rebellion had resulted in a huge civil war that war would probably not have been confined to the two white peoples; it would have been the darkest day this country had ever seen. But, thanks be to God, to-day they were out of that difficulty, as far as he could see, and therefore he asked everybody who had the Empire and South Africa at heart to take up a moderate attitude and work together for the good of all. They had a definite free Constitution under which they lived,

a Constitution born out of themselves and drafted by themselves, a Constitution for which they could only put the blame upon themselves if anything went wrong. They had said to the British Government that if they would give them that Constitution they would remain a united people. He hoped they would bear with one another. They had placed two nations next to one another, and he trusted the traditions of each would be retained and mutually respected, and if they had respect he was not afraid of the future, because he saw an improvement for South Africa in the younger generation who, upon the corner stone laid by the Constitution, were developing that real national feeling which they had always been looking for and aiming at. If they could once reach that point at which they could give one another the hand of brotherhood nothing more was necessary than to take off their coats and work for the interests of South Africa.

So often one was taken up wrongly, misinterpretations placed upon what they did and said. For instance, when he was in German South-West he gave the Germans terms which he thought were fair. Still he found many people in the Union who cursed him for that. The other day he was somewhat merciful when he released some of the rebels, amongst them his old friend, Gen. de Wet. He must say that only people who were strong enough could be merciful. People who were weak thought that once they had a man down they should keep him there. He believed in giving a man mercy and putting him to the proof and he thought they would find the test would

work satisfactorily. He had read an account of the Vrede demonstration which took place the other day. The result of the gathering was that the people thanked the Government for the mercy extended to the rebels. In South Africa they had a majority strong enough to maintain law and order, a majority which was able to give the necessary protection to life and property, and—he knew the people rather well—he did not think they need be afraid of any more trouble.

Dr. Roberts had referred to the work he (Gen. Botha) had done. He assured him he had only done his duty. The first duty of a man was to save his country; his second duty was not to remain behind, but to go with others to save his people, and he was firmly convinced that the spirit they had to-day was better than ever before.

Referring to Education, Gen. Botha said they at Lovedale had done a great work, which every man who loved South Africa appreciated: but they had only just made a beginning and of them much more was expected. He thought the people had been a bit too stingy; they ought to have put their hands deeper into their pockets. But the reason they had not done it sooner was that they had not known each other and did not know what each individual was doing. From what he had seen he would certainly put his hand in his pocket too. He was very thankful to hear that at the new college there would be a department that would have agriculture for special treatment. If there was one thing that would save the Natives from the precipice it was scientific agricultural education. Hundreds of thousands of Natives went to the mines to make a

living. The mines were only temporary, and if nothing took the place of the mines it would be bad for the Natives. He had said frequently, and said so still, that the remedy for Natives and Europeans was scientific agricultural education. They had very many professions in South Africa—ministers, doctors, lawyers. Those professions were very good to him, but the chief profession to his mind was agricultural knowledge, because agriculture, if properly developed, ought to pay for everything, and there was room for every individual in the country on agricultural ground. Therefore he was pleased to see agriculture get a place in the curriculum of the Native College.

Many people thought they were living in a state from which they would emerge in a worse position. As far as he could see, all the people should take off their coats and work as they had never worked before. He could see only one thing: As soon as the war was over there would be a time of prosperity such as had never been before, and they should get ready in South Africa to receive that period of prosperity. If they were unable to draw advantage from such prosperity others would come and draw it. The only thing they would deserve would be to have a difficult time in front of them. He thought his friend Gen. Smuts, would one day ask for volunteers for a new mounted brigade. He trusted South Africa would soon bring up those men, so that they could have nearly 20,000 men in German East and speedily bring hostilities there to a close. He was very grateful for the assistance given him thus far. They had sent men to the front whom he saw at

Otavifontein, and he saw them at Alice that day. The part they had taken and the assistance given had improved, not deteriorated, them.

After inspecting the class-rooms, workshops, and other buildings and the Victoria Hospital at Lovedale, General Botha with Sir Thomas Watt left at 4.34 for Cape Town. Before he left he spoke of his great satisfaction with his visit.

Many European guests left on Tuesday afternoon by train and motor. The Native guests, most of whom were entertained at Lovedale Institution, waited till the following day to attend a meeting at which a number of the practical questions connected with the College were discussed.

MEETING OF THE NATIVE REPRESENTATIVES.

A meeting of the Native representatives who had attended the opening was held in the Large Hall, Lovedale, on Wednesday forenoon, 9th February. After a few words from Rev. J. Henderson who presided, Principal Kerr spoke in detail of the courses of study with which it was proposed that the College should begin. In the discussion that ensued, a number of questions were introduced by Native speakers. One was that liberty should be secured for Native students after taking the Third Class Junior Teacher's Certificate to proceed at once with High School or other higher training should they so desire, and that the two years' service which they are required to give in a Government-aided school, should be given on completion of such further training. It was stated

that this matter had been represented to the Cape Education Department but that the Department adhered to its requirement that Native Students must give their two years' service immediately after obtaining their T3 Junior Certificates. It was resolved to make a further representation on this question.

In connection with the development of High Schools to act as feeders to the Native College, the following resolution was adopted by the meeting: That with the view of strengthening Secondary Education amongst Natives, this meeting of representatives attending the formal opening of the South African Native College respectfully requests that all Native Training Institutes make arrangements for tuition in Standard VII. and in the Junior Leaving Certificate as from the beginning of 1917; failing that, then the Governing Council is respectfully recommended to institute classes on these lines.

In response to an enquiry from one of the Basutoland representatives, it was explained that the Constitution provides, among other plans of co-operation, that any Church, Society or other Body paying annually to the Council a sum of not less than £250 towards the funds of the College is entitled to appoint one member to the Governing Council.

Plans were briefly discussed whereby district committees could assist in raising funds for the College.

The meeting, which was very cordial throughout, closed with votes of thanks to the Governing Council and to those who had provided hospitality.

THE OPENING OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIVE COLLEGE CLASSES.

On the evening of Thursday, 24th ultimo, in the presence of a few ladies and gentlemen from Lovedale and Alice, and of the staff and students, Principal Kerr delivered his inaugural address at the opening of the first year and term of the South African Native College. The company met in the Dining Hall of the College Hostel, which with its new furniture and a few simple decorations, looked fresh and comfortable. After praise, prayer offered by Rev. J. Henderson, and reading of a Scripture lesson by Mr. D. D. T. Jabavu, Mr. Kerr said:

Ladies and Gentlemen and students of the South African Native College, a fortnight ago we were honoured by the presence of the Prime Minister of the Union, General Botha, who declared this college open and in a speech of encouragement and wise counsel intimated to the public that an institution for the Higher Education of the Natives of South Africa was in being.

To-night, however, this meeting has a significance of its own, for here is the first company of those who, as students and as teachers, will constitute the South African Native College. I do not suppose that any of you, knowing the history of the movement which has resulted in the foundation of this college, came here prepared to enter magnificent halls. But in case the meagreness of our material provision should cause any one to stumble.

I should like to remind you of what a college really is. In early days in Europe a college (or a university, for the terms were almost interchangeable then) was an association of teachers who voluntarily grouped themselves together to instruct men who desired to enter the professions. The teachers received the students into their own houses If they required a building for some of their great occasions, they borrowed a church. From such humble beginnings arose the famous universities of the modern world, but, in spite of the multiplication of palatial buildings, the root idea is the same—or rather is the same in an expanded form, for I believe that a college or university would generally be defined to-day as an association of teachers and students engaged in the pursuit of learning, with practical aims. Therefore though you have not "the numberless comforts and even magnificences" that surround some seekers after knowledge, I hope you will realise that these things, however desirable, are not essential and that you are members of a true college, labouring for the advancement of learning, engaged in making traditions that will be subject of pride to generations in the future.

It is natural when a new beginning is being made that we should examine the ground of the whole matter. Why is this or any college established? What is the proper service it can render to the State? Well, a college does not exist to bestow cap and gown and hood on a man. It should not be thronged by people in search only of degrees, by students, that is, who prize the trade mark of learning more than learning

itself. Doubtless corporations must protect themselves and others from quackery and pseudo-learning, and, properly regarded, degrees are titles to be proud of, but in the minds of right-thinking people they are as the small dust of the balance compared with the weightier fruits of scholarship.

What then are the functions of a college? In the first place, a true college has always provided the environment for the prosecution of learning for its own sake. It has ever recognised that man has interests beyond the material world, and its curriculum has always included subjects of study that could by no means be described as "bread and butter" subjects. Its courses have been arranged in such a way that it has always been possible for students to get an adequate, just, and well-balanced view of life as a whole. It has aimed to produce men and women of culture, right-minded towards God and their fellows, and sane, intelligent members of the commonwealth. This I hope will be one aim of our College—the most important perhaps, but one that is sometimes overlooked in the whirl of daily events.

Secondly, a true college has always taken as a major part of its work the task of preparing men and women for certain well-defined professions in which systematic learning is required, and, for the practice of which, the experience of ages, sifted and tried, is necessary. The professions which have long been recognised in universities are the ministry, medicine, and law, and lately teaching has been added to the number. Not all colleges have organized faculties for instructing

students in all the departments of knowledge. Many universities have begun as specialist schools—schools of Medicine, Theology, or Law, and to this day some universities have world-wide reputation as training schools in certain branches, Edinburgh for example for Medicine, and Cambridge for Mathematics. But it has been the aim to develop each college into a complete body as opportunity occurred.

Here then we touch on the second function of this College. It seeks at the present stage to give preparatory training to those who will enter the professions. First of all there is the ministry. It is difficult to imagine that any body of men can exercise more influence among the people than the Native ministers, and it is essential that they should bring to their task of dividing the Word of Truth ample knowledge and wise judgment as well as the qualifications which are the fruit of the Spirit. Accordingly in the College, provision has been made for those whose purpose it is to enter the Church. At present candidates for the Native ministry are largely recruited from the teaching profession, and, while his experience as a teacher will probably stand a Native minister in good stead, it is not an economical use of resources to train a man for one profession and have him adopt another. The course which we suggest as suitable for those who will proceed to the ministry includes literature and philosophy—the humanistic studies, natural science, history,—the sheet anchor of the citizen, and mathematics, the abstract discipline. It seems to me that two or three years profitably spent in studies of this nature would be sound

preparation for the work of interpreting the Scriptures to the people. We hope that the Churches will support us in this by accepting as students for their theological classes those who have spent some time here, and soon, we hope, only those who have taken the matriculation examination of the College.

Next to the ministry, there is the profession of teaching. It is essential that those who deal in knowledge should know. I am sure that no far-seeing man can regard with complacency the equipment of the student who has completed his course at a Training Institution for Native Teachers. No State investment pays better than that spent in producing a high type of teacher. We hope to make arrangements whereby it may be possible to some to study for a certificate of higher grade than that at present generally possessed.

In the case of Law, we shall only touch in the meantime the hem of its robe, by making provision for training interpreters for the courts, but we have the germ of a faculty here. I see that Law is the profession that some of you intend to adopt, and I hope that it may be possible for you to take your full course of training here.

Medicine is beyond us at present, even in the germ, but it is well to note that there are at least two fully qualified Native doctors practising in the Union, and that the first student enrolled in this college has stated that he intends to make medicine his profession. It is not the intention that every student should enter a profession, but there can be no doubt about the expediency of maintaining a supply of qualified professional men. Professor

Laurie, the first occupant of the first Chair of Education in Great Britain, was of the opinion that "more is accomplished for the civilisation and education of the masses by supplying every part of a country with good professional men than by teaching everybody the A. B. C. The educated professional few," he says, "carry with them a standard of life wherever they go while serving their fellowmen in all that concerns their daily needs and highest interests."

The modern college, however, cannot restrict its operations to the preparation of students for the old established professions. Business is becoming more highly complex day by day and commerce is accumulating a body of organised experience which can be scientifically placed at the disposal of those who wish to adopt a business career. There is a faculty of Commerce at the lately established University of Birmingham which, I believe, grants degrees in this department. In a less ambitious way we have organized a course of Business Training in which we propose, in addition to a sound general education, to give instruction in bookkeeping, shorthand, typewriting and business procedure. I am glad to see that some of you have come here for practical training of this kind.

Then there is Agriculture, the oldest of the Arts, and the most important of the practical sciences. In an industrial country like the middle belt of Scotland or the north of England, the silent processes of agriculture are unheeded in the general din of hammers and the creaking of cranes, and men tend to forget that all prosperity rests upon

the land. But even in countries like these, agriculture is firmly established in the Universities and colleges. Here in a non-industrial country, where every man is a farmer, the need of the scientific teaching of Agriculture should not require to be argued. It is one of the main aims of this college to develop a strong school in agriculture. It will take a year or two to establish and we do not propose to take any full-course students this year, but I hope that the Diploma in Agriculture of the South African Native College will in future years be a coveted distinction and a guarantee of practical efficiency.

But a College besides providing for the instruction of its students and so handing on the torch from one generation to another, should itself aid in the advancement of learning and make incursions into unknown seas of knowledge. It is not to be overlooked that many of the older colleges have their private press and issue from time to time the results of the researches of their professors and students. Fortunately we have a field to our hand in which it seems we need fear no competition from other colleges in South Africa. I refer to the study of the Native languages. Brilliant results have been achieved by individual scholars, but it is hoped that researches into the Native languages will be extensively carried on here. Even to-day with our limited numbers we have represented four Native tongues. The study of these we shall encourage in every way. The day of despising the vernacular is past. A sound understanding of his own tongue is the basis of every man's education, and we hope to establish a school of Bantu

languages that in time will attract Europeans as well as Natives.

From this slight sketch of our activities, you will see that though our standard of entrance is for the present lower than some of us would like, yet the college has a broad foundation and has been conceived by its originators on lines that allow of development. Whether it develops or not will depend on the support of the Native people. And it will not suffice to support one side only of the work of the college. It will not help the cause of Native education much if all our students insist on taking the Matriculation Examination of the Cape University. Anyone can see that there are changes imminent in the university system of the Union and it will be well to note in time that we must grow from our own root and strike out in our own directions. The task that is set us in the immediate future is to meet the requirements of Native life and to develop as these increase. I think that it is gratifying that though our numbers are small there are students taking every course provided in our syllabus. In time, when we have justified our existence, we hope to get our own Charter and to place our own hall mark on those who successfully complete our courses.

I do not touch to-night on the social life of a college—on that play and interplay of personality which silently moulds the characters of men. I hope the student life of this college will be vigorous and clean as it is at some of those I know, and that your energy will find an outlet in the Literary Society, the Christian Union, the Study Circles and Bible Classes and the Musical Asso-

ciation, all of which have their well defined places in College life. I would also remind you of the dangers of sedentary life and of the need for developing and training the body. I hope that we shall give due attention to this, for, if we find the proper kind of training, it is sure to react beneficially on mind and soul.

Finally let me say that there will be one supreme test of the success of this college and that test will be the characters of you men and women who spend some of the most impressionable years of your lives here. The public will demand much of you, for your opportunities have been greater than those of your fathers who, I know, must have made many sacrifices to enable you to be here to-night. I hope that you will hold your privileges dear. Much effort will be required of you. You will have weary, disappointing days I doubt not. We do not offer you a life of ease. You will have many discomforts to endure and much that is irksome to do. Your dormitories will not compare favourably with those that your successors will inhabit. Your classrooms have been hastily improvised. You will probably never as students sit in the buildings that we hope to see on the hill behind us. But what of that? You have been honoured far more than you can estimate. Your names are the first to appear on the roll of this college and no man can deprive you of that distinction. But your responsibilities are likewise great. This is *your* college. *You* have its future in your hands. You are pioneers, stepping out into an unknown country and no man can tell the number of the feet that will follow in your trail.

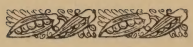
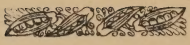
Are not the words of the Poet of the Prairie addressed to you?

For we cannot tarry here,
We must march, my darlings, we must bear the brunt of danger,
We the youthful, sinewy races, all the rest on us depend,
Pioneers! O pioneers!

All the past we leave behind,
We debouch upon a newer, mightier world, varied world,
Fresh and strong the world we seize, world of labour and the march,
Pioneers! O pioneers!

See my children, resolute children,
By those swarms upon our rear, we must never yield or falter,
Ages back in ghostly millions, frowning there behind us urging,
Pioneers! O pioneers!

On and on the compact ranks,
With accessions ever waiting, with the places of the dead quickly filled,
Through the battle, through defeat, moving yet and never stopping,
Pioneers! O pioneers!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